

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of embedding watermarking data in an audio signal, comprising the steps of:

- (a) incorporating watermarking information into said audio signal,
- (b) sectioning said signal into at least two sections each having audio content,
- (c) marking at least one of said section sections whereby said sections may be identified,
- (d) generating distortion in a first one of said section sections of said signal in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from at least one other [said] section having audio content, and
- (e) appending said distorted section to said at least one other section to form a composite signal comprising a distorted section and at least one undistorted section.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said key is embedded in said at least one other [said] section by means of said watermarking information.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said distortion is generated by creating a pseudo-random number sequence for adding as pseudo-random noise to said first [said] section, and wherein said pseudo-random number sequence is embedded in said at least one other section to enable said random noise to be subsequently removed.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first section is distorted by means of a scrambling function.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said key is obtained directly from a sequence of bits contained in said at least one other [said] section.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said key is obtained by applying a hashing function to the bit sequence of said least one other [said] section.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [5] 6 wherein the output of the hashing function is added to the bitstream of said first section to create said distortion.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein [the] a bitstream of said first section is subject to a scrambling function to create said distortion.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first section comprises a section to which access is to be restricted.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one other section comprises an advertisement.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one other section comprises a trial listening section.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one other section comprises an advertisement section and a trial listening section.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said audio signal is compressed after watermarking.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein said first section of said compressed signal is distorted by means of a scrambling function that receives as a key the output of a hashing function that acts upon said at least one other section.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein said audio signal is compressed in MP3 format and said scrambling function acts upon the bits contained within MP3 frames.

16. (Original) A method of playing back an audio signal having data embedded within it by the method of claim 1, comprising;

- (a) reading said composite signal,
- (b) identifying said sections,
- (c) obtaining said key from said at least one undistorted section, and
- (d) recovering said distorted section.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said distorted section is recovered in real time without being written to memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A watermarked audio signal comprising at least two sections each having audio content, including a first section which is distorted in a manner recoverable by means of a key obtainable from at least one other section having audio content.

19. (Original) A watermarked audio signal as claimed in claim 18 wherein said first section is a section to which access is restricted.

20. (Original) A watermarked audio signal as claimed in claim 18 wherein said at least one other section is an advertisement section.

21. (Currently Amended) A watermarked audio signal as claimed in claim 18 wherein said at least one other ~~signal~~ section comprises a trial listening section.

22. (Currently Amended) A watermarked audio signal as claimed in claim 18 wherein said at least one other ~~signal~~ section comprises an advertisement section and a trial listening section.

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for embedding watermarking data in an audio signal, comprising:

- (a) means for incorporating watermarking information into said audio signal,
- (b) means for sectioning said signal into at least two sections each having audio content,
- (c) means for marking at least one of said ~~section~~ sections whereby said sections may be identified,
- (d) means for generating distortion in one of said ~~section~~ sections of said signal in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from at least one other ~~said~~ section having audio content, and
- (e) means for appending said distorted section to said at least one other section to form a composite signal comprising a distorted section and at least one undistorted section.

24. (Original) Apparatus for the playing back an audio signal having data embedded within it by the method of claim 1, comprising;

- (a) means for reading said composite signal,
- (b) means for identifying said sections,

(c) means for obtaining said key from said at least one undistorted section,
and

(d) means for recovering said distorted section.

25. (Original) A method for including an advertisement with audio data in an audio signal comprising, sectioning said signal into a first section and an advertisement section, generating distortion of said first section in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from said advertisement section, and appending said distorted first section to said advertisement section.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for including a trial listening section with audio data in an audio signal comprising, sectioning said signal into a first section and a trial listening section, generating distortion of said first section in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from said trial listening section, and appending said distorted first section to said ~~advertisement~~ trial listening section.

27. (Original) A method for including an advertisement section and a trial listening section with audio data in an audio signal, including sectioning said signal into a first section, an advertisement section and a trial listening section, marking at least one of said sections whereby said sections may be identified, generating distortion in said first section in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from at least one of said advertisement and trial listening sections, and appending said distorted first section to said advertisement and trial listening sections to form a composite signal.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of restricting access to a part of a [data] media signal, comprising the steps of:

- (a) sectioning said signal into at least two sections each having media content,
- (b) marking at least one of said ~~section~~ sections whereby said sections may be identified,
- (c) generating distortion in one of said ~~section~~ sections of said signal in a manner recoverable by a key obtainable from at least one other [said] section having media content, and
- (d) appending said distorted section to said at least one other section to form a composite signal comprising a distorted section and at least one undistorted section.